

Exposition

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Chas. A. Strelinger

Lake County

Inspection of the Lake County

Inspector Byrnes of New York, in an article contributed to the North American Review, styles the cheap lodging houses of the cities "nurseries of crime," and regards these houses as one of the most troublesome factors of the social problem. These houses are not merely the temporary haven of unfortunate wretches who cannot afford more respectable shelter, and take bed there while seeking for honest employment, but they are the rendezvous and starting points of the vilest and most vicious of the petty criminal classes, sneak thieves, foot-pads and thugs, the more dangerous because the most depraved of law-breakers. The houses are unmistakably recruiting grounds for all manner of crime, and places for the propagation of the lowest vices. Luckless or unfortunate young men who go to the cities to seek employment, drift to these places when their money is exhausted, and are quickly familiarized with crime, and it is doubtful if one out of ten who become lodgers in these houses ever afterward leads a reputable life. The corruption of the moral nature is the inevitable result to the young of coming in contact with the low and vicious. The temptation of crime is an escape from the hardships of distressing circumstances and inability to get honest employment, and is yielded to without great resistance, and the ranks of the criminal classes are steadily recruited.

One of the inherent characteristics of man is greed, and no labor is too arduous or dangerous to deter him from searching for wealth. The latest illustration of this axiomatic statement comes from Coahuila, a suburb of the City of Mexico, where extensive excavations are being made by private associations to recover treasures of gold and jewels supposed to have been hidden there by Emperor Montezuma at the time of the Spanish conquest. The search is led by a lineal descendant of the last Aztec emperor, Cuauhtemoc, who has in his possession hieroglyphic documents showing that it was in this region that Montezuma hid his vast treasures, and among other things, an immense amount of gold. Already vast quantities of jewels have been found besides the remains of hundreds of Indians, proving beyond question that Indians there buried were pure Aztecs. The value of the buried treasure is estimated at \$60,000,000, but the intrinsic value of the things buried by Montezuma is surpassed by their historical importance. The history of the Aztecs is of peculiar interest to the student, and many interesting chapters of a long-sealed book are being opened by the pick and spade of the men who are searching for wealth.

The laws against combines and trusts in the constitutions of the two Dakotas are said to be the concentrated essence of all the best economic philosophy in the statutes of other states. Trusts are hit squarely between the eyes. Franchises of corporations and associations are void where the objects of such associations are to control the price of any commodity or the cost of exchange or transportation. Railroads are prohibited from owning parallel or competing lines, from consolidating their stock or franchises. The legislature is vested with power to enact laws regulating and controlling the rates of charges for the transportation of passengers and freight by rail, and the telegraphic dispatches. These are excellent constitutional provisions but they may remain a dead letter for years. The question is, will men be elected to the legislature who will have courage to enact laws to enforce these constitutional provisions?

An admirable benefit organization has been started by the public school teachers of Boston, providing against the impetuous or laborious old age too often unavoidable in that hard-worked and ill-paid calling. The plan involves the payment of an entrance fee of \$3 and small annual assessments varying according to the salary received, the proceeds to form a fund which shall enable members to retire, women after 30 and men after 40 years of service, with assured annual incomes equal to 60 per cent of their salary, provided, however, that no one shall receive more than \$600 annually. The principle is a good one, even though the application of the idea may not be well considered.

Oklahoma does not present that prosperity and enterprise which its enthusiastic well-wishers had anticipated. Altogether there are less than 20,000 people in the territory, and most of these are concentrated in and about the three towns of Guthrie, Kingfisher and Oklahoma City. While there are 40,000 quarter sections, less than 24,000 are worth taking up, and a comparatively small number are under cultivation. But very little planting has been done this season, and settlers are likely to have a hard time of it this winter. Taking it all in all, Oklahoma is not a promising success, but is an apt illustration of the old saw that "Rome was not built in a day."

The opening of Harvard university for the higher education of women has borne fruit by inducing other leading colleges of the country to follow its example. Columbia was the second college to lay aside its old-time conservatism by admitting women to share its advantages equally with men. Yale, despite its exclusiveness, will not stand back in throwing open its doors in like departments to women, and their capacity for higher education has been so successfully

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